



SOCIAL STUDIES

Lesson

UNIT 3 – Family Types and Unions in the Caribbean Situations

Lesson

4

Societal Implications

INTRODUCTION

This lesson will examine the implications of the different types of relationships in the formation and continuation of families in society.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- identify the characteristics of a stable family and determine in which of the named families would this quality be most likely seen
- compare the different relationships in different types of families to determine the extent to which procreation is possible and advantageous
- evaluate the prospects of for the continuation of family life in both traditional and non traditional families



TRADITIONAL FAMILIES

The Nuclear Family

- Ensures the continuation of families.
- Children produced are more likely than not to be well balanced.
- Children benefit from love and affection of both parents.
- May be greater economic or financial support for family members.
- Shared responsibility for rearing children.

The Extended Family

- Since this family may consist of married siblings, the formation of families and its continuation is in good hands.
- There are more adults of varying generations to guide and protect the children in these families.
- Added bonus – more people to contribute to the upkeep of the home.

Single Parent Family

- Parent often frustrated with all the responsibility.
- Children often missing the presence and discipline of the male figure.
- If the one parent is working, children may assume responsibility beyond their years.
- Children may lack supervision.
- Single parents may over-indulge or over-protect their children.
- Children who lack the two-parent family type experience may not aspire to have a different type of family when they themselves have the choice as adults.

NON TRADITIONAL FAMILIES

The Reconstituted Family

- There can be confusion as to identity.
- Confusion as to the use of last names.
- Children often resist discipline from parent who is not the biological parent.
- Adult who is not the biological parent may hesitate to assert his authority.
- Children may have several half sisters and half brothers.
- Coming into a new family with “mine” and “yours”, partners may have problems having “ours”
- The environment exists for a child to feel left out.

Same Sex Unions

- There is no natural procreation in this type of union.
- If children exist, they may belong to one partner or they may be adopted.
- Children run the risk of confusion in their minds as regards sexuality and the norms of society.



ACTIVITY 1

Answer ‘true’ or ‘false’ in the following statements by underlining the correct response:

1. John lived with his mother only. This is an example of a nuclear family. (True / False)
2. It is most likely that children born into a single parent household would crave the presence of the absent parent. (True / False)
3. Same sex couples often procreate. (True / False)



The reconstituted family is a non-traditional family. (True / False)

ACTIVITY 2

ASSIGNMENT

Write the following in paragraph form:

1. What, in your opinion, is a stable family?
2. What effect would such a family have on the society?
3. What do you think will be the effect on the family if there is no system, or no proper system for family life to continue?